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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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3 1. A clamping plate assembly for movement laterally into and
4 out of engagement with a load including in combination:

5 a main plate member having front, rear, upper and lower
6 edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member and
7 extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a
8 predetermined distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending
9 substantially from the rear edge of the main plate member to the
10 front edge thereof, with the auxiliary plate removably attached to
11 the main plate member; and yieldable friction material over
12 substantially the major portions of the auxiliary plate and the
13 portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary
14 plate.

15
16 2. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the
17 yieldable friction material is selected to be made of resilient
18 compressible material.

19
20 3. A clamping plate according to Claim 2 wherein the
21 yieldable friction material is a compressible rubber-like material.

22
23 4. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 3 wherein the
24 yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate and
25 the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary
26 plate.

1 5. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 4 wherein the
2 yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a
3 plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one
4 another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member
5 and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main
6 plate member.

7
8 6. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 5 wherein the
9 thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 5/8" and 1
10 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

11
12 7. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the
13 main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of aluminum.

14
15 8. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 7 further
16 including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary
17 plate to the main plate member.

18
19 9. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 8 wherein the
20 auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear
21 edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the
22 rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the
23 auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of
24 the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose
25 piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge
26 thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

10. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

11. The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9 wherein the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel to the main plate member.

12. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 11 wherein the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum thickness of the nose piece.

13. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 12 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and the nose piece.

14. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the main plate assembly.

15. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

16. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 15 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

17. The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 16 wherein the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel to the main plate member.

1 18. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 17 wherein
2 the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the
3 yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum
4 thickness of the nose piece.

5 19. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 18 wherein
6 the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to
7 the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads
8 thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and
9 the nose piece.

10 20. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13 wherein
11 the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of
12 the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the
13 auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction
14 material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed
15 surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate
16 to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable
17 friction material on the main plate assembly.

18 21. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 20 wherein
19 the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a
20 plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one
21 another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member
22 and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main
23 plate member.
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26

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1 22. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 21 wherein
2 the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 5/8" and
3 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

4 23. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein
5 the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of aluminum.

6 24. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein
7 the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate
8 and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the
9 auxiliary plate.

10 25. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 further
11 including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary
12 plate to the main plate member.

13 26. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein
14 the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of
15 the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the
16 auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction
17 material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed
18 surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate
19 to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable
20 friction material on the main plate assembly.

27. A clamping plate assembly for movement laterally into and out of engagement with a load including in combination:

a main rectangular plate member having front, rear, upper and lower edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member and extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a short distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending substantially from the rear edge of the main plate member to the front edge thereof, the short distance being a minor portion of the distance between the lower and upper edges of the main backing plate member and with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main plate member; and yieldable friction material attached to and covering substantially the major portion of the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

28. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of resilient compressible material.

29. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 28 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main plate member.

1 30. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 29 wherein
2 the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 3/8"
3 and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.
4

5 31. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein
6 the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear
7 edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the
8 rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the
9 auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of
10 the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose
11 piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge
12 thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.
13

14 32. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 31 wherein
15 the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.
16

17 33. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 further
18 including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary
19 plate to the main plate member.
20

21 34. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 33 wherein
22 the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to
23 the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads
24 thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and
25 the nose piece.
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35. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.